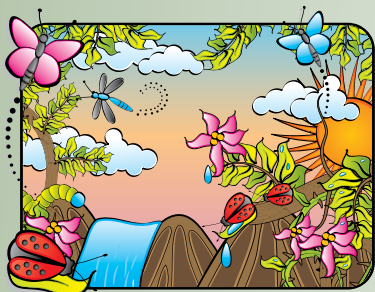


Spring 2014



*Welcome to
EarthTracks,
Idaho's
environmental
education newsletter.
Here you'll find
news from Idaho's
environmental
education leaders
and others interested
in environmental
education. We
encourage your
suggestions and
thoughts.*



Common Core—We can help!

We hear the stress in teachers' voices. "I feel like I'm a first year teacher." "We have to find or create the curriculum." "There aren't enough minutes in the day."

We also hear excitement. "I have more freedom to be creative in what and how I teach!" "When students have to explain and defend their reasoning, the learning is obvious!" "I like being a guide on the side rather than a sage on the stage!" As Idaho Core Standards are implemented, there is no denying that it will take a lot of thought, dedication and time - things teachers are already used to providing.

LET US HELP! Our programs have decades of experience with this type of learning. You need informational texts that are relevant to students? We can help! You want to link those texts to fictional literature? We can help! You need real-world problems for students to tackle? You want students to see how math is used every day? You'd like to do place-based and project-based learning? Your students need to work on written and oral communication skills? We can help with all of those needs and more.

Whether you're new to our programs or you're a "groupie," let us help! Sign up for a workshop or conference, request free materials, check out our online resources. Contact us (see back panel). While all our workshops relate to Core standards, we're developing new ones that do it even more directly. Stay tuned. In the meantime, here's a challenge. Post a standard you're trying to meet on our *EarthTracks* Facebook page, and we'll offer suggestions!



Do you know someone who needs EarthTracks?

Anyone is welcome to subscribe. Send us your mailing address (email if you prefer an electronic copy). Contact any of the **EarthTracks** partners listed on the back page for more information.

Help us keep the EarthTracks list up to date. Please let us know of address changes, or if you're receiving duplicate copies.



Idaho Environmental Education Conference

February 28-March 1, 2014

Idaho's premier gathering for those passionate about learning and our environment.

Conference participants will gather under the theme Exploring Your Backyard, and Beyond! The popular conference will highlight effective, affordable Idaho programs, especially those that are hands on, standards based, interdisciplinary and encourage kids to get outside and learn about their local environment and community. Participants return home energized with relevant information, useful contacts and helpful resources. Visit www.idahoe.org to learn more and register for the conference!

Conference highlights

- Common Core pre-conference workshop - 2/27
- Keynote speaker: education innovator Abby Ruskey, E3 Washington
- Astronaut Barbara Morgan will present the Idaho EE Awards!
- USGBC-Idaho and Wells Fargo's Idaho Green School Challenge winners
- 4 off site, place-based field investigations
- 16 professional development sessions
- Resource fair
- IdEEA member discounts
- Generous scholarships
- CEUs available

The conference will be held at the Red Lion Downtowner at 1800 Fairview Avenue, Boise. Call (855) 261-1567 and ask for the IdEEA room block.

Calendar

Feb 7-8	Project WET. Boise
Feb 7-8	WILD about Mule Deer. Jerome
Feb 21-22	PLT Talk Trash. Boise
Feb 27	Common Core workshop. (IdEEA) Boise
Feb 28-Mar 1	Idaho EE Conference
Mar 7-8	WILD About Raptors. Boise
Mar 14-15	PLT Focus on Early Childhood. Boise
Mar 14-15	Project WET. Pocatello
Mar 21-22	PLT/WET Forest to Faucet. Lewiston
Apr 4-5	PLT. Boise
Apr 11-12	WILD. Boise
Apr 11-12	Focus on Literature with WILD, WET & PLT. Idaho Falls
Apr 11-12	Water Conservation (WET). Boise
April 18-19	WET. Coeur d'Alene
Apr 25-26	WILD about Turkeys. Coeur d'Alene
May 1-3	Into the Watershed (WET). Boise/Murphy
May 2-3	PLT Focus on Early Childhood. Sagle
May 2-3	WILD about Early Learners. Boise
June TBD	WILD about Elk.
June 12-13	PLT Walk in the Forest. Idaho City
June 17-18	Focus on Literature with WILD, WET & PLT. Boise
June 23-27	Sustainable Forestry Tour (PLT). Post Falls
June 26-27	PLT Walk in the Forest. St. Maries

June 30-July 1	PLT Wildfires & Weeds. Wallace.
June 30-July 2	Rangeland Ecology at the City of Rocks. Malta
July 8-9	PLT/WET Forest to Faucet. Coeur d'Alene
July 8-9	PLT Wildfires & Weeds. Lowman
July 10-11	WILD about Salmon. Boise
July 10-11	PLT ForestTree & STEM. Post Falls/Athol
July 12-13	River Ecology with WET & WILD. Riggins
July 15-16	PLT Wildfires & Weeds. Hailey
July 17-18	MK Nature Center with WET & WILD. Boise
July 29-30	PLT Wildfires & Weeds. Boise
July 29-31	Water Camp (WET). Twin Falls
Aug 4-5	Explore Your WETlands. Boise
Sept 19-20	PLT Walk in the Forest. Twin Falls
Sept 19-20	WILD About Zoo. Boise

See workshop descriptions and updated schedules at each program's website. Check the back panel of *EarthTracks* for websites and other contact information.

PLT Three Cheers for Trees (Early Childhood Shortcourse)

Mar 22	Coeur d'Alene
Apr 12	Moscow
Apr 26	Rexburg
Apr 26	Nampa
Late Spring	Grangeville
May 17	St. Maries

Common Core Workshop

February 27, 2014



This 8-hour workshop, hosted by IdEEA, is offered the day before the Idaho Environmental Education Conference (see p. 2) at the Red Lion Downtowner in Boise. Who should attend? Providers who want to learn the basics about Idaho's approach to the Common Core State Standards and how to present and frame their programs, materials and presentations to meet teacher and classroom

needs. The workshop will also benefit classroom teachers who want to learn more about available EE programs and materials and how they can help meet Idaho Core Standards in the classroom.

Christa Shier, M.S. Natural Resources and high school teacher Meg Fleischmann will be joined by Idaho State University education professor Dr. Carie Green to present:

- Idaho Core Standards basics
- National and Idaho perspectives
- How ICS ties in with EE teaching models (integrated instruction, cooperative learning, inquiry and problem solving) and active learning models (connection to community and activities & actions that demonstrate learning and communication)
- How EE overlaps with CC, with suggestions for implementation
- How CC ties in with STEM education model
- Applications for Pre-service educators
- Hands-on activities to model key concepts

Workshop fee is \$75. Contact IdEEA for registration information.

Still a steal of a deal!

Starting in 2014, the workshop fee for regular 15-hour classes from Project WILD, Project WET and Project Learning Tree will be \$35. This slight increase helps us continue to offer you terrific materials and learning experiences at a relatively low cost. Please contact us with any questions.

National Environmental Education Week

April 13-19, 2014

Engineering a Sustainable World. www.eeweek.org/

75th Anniversary

In November Idaho Fish and Game celebrated its 75th anniversary. The anniversary marks the date of the state's first successful voter initiative, which



created the Idaho Fish and Game Commission and a civil service system for employees hired on the basis of merit. In the coming months, Fish and Game will highlight some of the events and progress that have shaped the agency since 1938. The wildlife conservation movement in Idaho and the rest of the nation rose out of concern for the steep decline in wildlife populations in the late 19th century. Join us as we celebrate wildlife management in Idaho. fishandgame.idaho.gov for videos and timeline events!

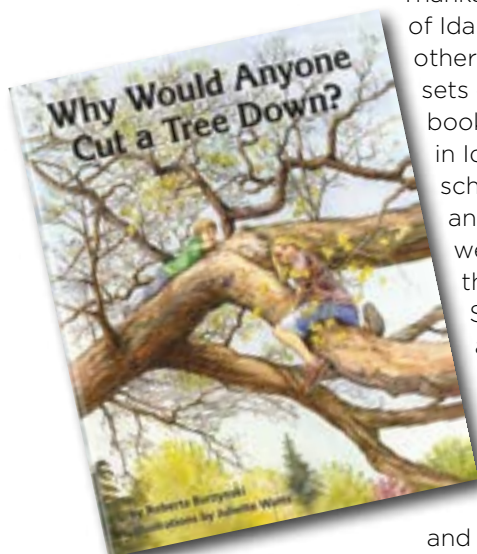
Unplug Week

Check the website for opportunities near you in April.

www.unplugandbeoutside.com/



New Book—Coming soon to a school near you!



Thanks to the generosity of Idaho Forest Group and other donors, classroom sets of a beautiful new book will soon arrive in Idaho elementary schools. The book and mini-curriculum were produced by the U.S. Forest Service. (Download at: <http://na.fs.fed.us/whycutatree/>)

Illustrated with watercolors, the book explores tree life cycles, benefits

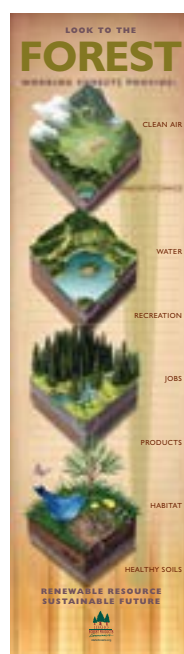
and needs, along with renewability and the importance of

planting and celebrating trees. The Idaho Forest Products Commission will send books to 3rd grade teachers this spring, but anyone is welcome to request books, while they last. Contact Project Learning Tree.

Come out and play with PLT!



Project Learning Tree has planned an amazing menu of one-credit workshops for you. Not only will you get proven activities that are correlated to Core and other standards, but you'll feed your inner lifelong learner and your passion for teaching. From early childhood through high school, there's something for everyone. Learn more and sign up at www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm.



Look to the Forest – NEW Posters (2 in 1) – FREE!

Stunningly beautiful design and artwork. One side features Idaho conifer trees, and the other journeys from a bird's eye aerial view to a bird's eye ground view! Inbetween, explore the interplay of forests and water, wildlife and more. Contact PLT to request one or more copies for your class today.



Apply to spend an amazing week in Idaho forests!

Ask anyone who's attended: The *Sustainable Forestry Tour* is an incredible educational experience! The all-expenses-paid tour is June 23-27, based in Post Falls. Two credits are available. Experience beautiful forests. Take home proven activities and materials that help you meet Core and other standards. Meet people who care for forests and make wood and paper products. Network with your colleagues. Teachers and school counselors of 3rd-12th grade students are invited to apply **by 3/31/14** at www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm.

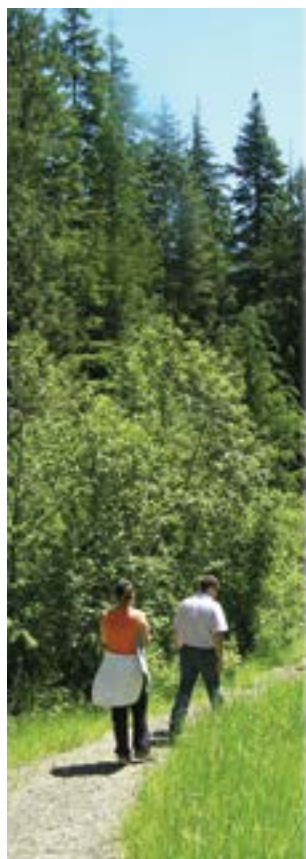
Arbor Day Digital Photo Contest

Idaho 5th-12th grade students are invited to share their digital photos of what they see when they "look to the forest." Winners receive cash prizes, are honored at the state ceremony and tree planting on Arbor Day, April 25,

and their photos are available as e-cards. All entries are displayed in the online gallery. Contest info and entry form at www.idahoforests.org/photoentry.htm. **Deadline March 24, 2014.**



Protected. By Isabelle DeVries. 2013 Grand Prize winner.



LIFE ON THE RANGE

Visit the range at www.lifeontherange.org. The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission (IRRC) has virtually brought the range to you, wherever you are. This interactive website allows you to watch and read about ranching families and their first-hand experience of living on the range. Watch our newest YouTube videos of the devastation of last year's Elk and Pony Complex wildfires. Other stories include Jared Brackett, working to improve sage grouse habitat on his ranch, and two sheep ranchers: Frank Shirts, from Wilder, Idaho and Henry Etcheverry in eastern Idaho. "Life on the Range" showcases grazing, wildlife, monitoring, multiple use and fire on Idaho's rangelands. Comprehension questions for each video are available at www.idrange.org/education.



For more resources on Idaho's range visit www.idrange.org, where you can download **Free** K-12 lesson plans and classroom activities that cover topics from animals and plants to watersheds and range fires.

Apply for **Free Mini Grants** available for rangeland learning activities, fieldtrips and outdoor schools. View upcoming events and workshops that are science centered, and sign up to receive our annual e-newsletter, which will keep you up to date on our programs and teacher workshops.

Mark your calendars: June 30-July 2, 2014. The IRRC is hosting a summer workshop: *Rangeland Ecology at the City of Rocks*. This will cover plant identification, sage-grouse habitat, grazing management, and ecological site evaluation. Visit www.idrange.org/events for more details and registration for this event.



National Park Service photo: Inner City

Into the Watershed—Returning class for Mid-High School teachers

Join Project WET for this 2-credit field workshop that highlights the working of a watershed from the inside out. We begin in Boise on Thursday evening with presentations by resource and research professionals. Friday we go to the Reynolds Creek Watershed Research Station (www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=53-62-00-00) for two days of stream and upland investigations. You will spend time with land managers and private owners who will share how cooperative resource management works. You will also receive:

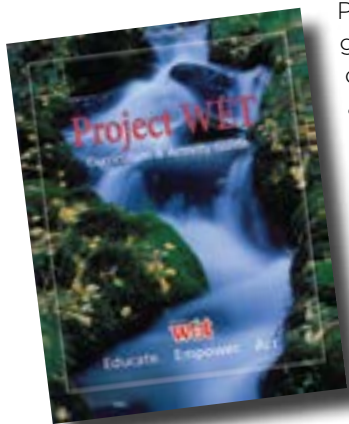
- Project WET's *Healthy Water Healthy People* and *Watershed Manager* Curriculum Guides.
- Idaho Streamwalk: A Field Assessment Guide
- Information about Reynolds Creek Watershed and their decades of climate information
- SnoTel Curriculum information and resources from Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management materials

Overnight accommodations are available at the Reynolds Creek site. All food and field equipment for Friday and Saturday sessions are provided. Cost \$75 plus university credit fees. Scholarships are available. Only 15 spots available. Contact Project WET for registration today!

Idaho Water Camp—Twin Falls

This popular 2 credit CE workshops consist of two days of water education curricula and a full day of local field trips. Interdisciplinary curricula includes *Project WET*; *Healthy Water Healthy People* and *Conserve Water*. Teachers will gain a better understanding of their local water resources, issues and management and connections with local water resource professionals. There is a \$75 registration fee if registered before May 27 and \$100 thereafter. Scholarships are available! These workshops are sponsored by the Idaho Water Education Foundation and Idaho Water Resources Research Institute at the U of I. Contact Project WET.

Have You Checked out the New Project WET?



Project WET Idaho has a new guide, all color with some of the old, but lots of new activities and content. If you have attended a previous Project WET workshop you can attend again for credit since a new guide and materials are being featured. Teachers attending the Project WET training will also receive access to the new **Project WET Portal where they can gain access to current** correlations, activity

suggestions, and information updates relating to water topics. Contact Project WET about workshops coming to your area.

Explore discoverwater.org!



Discoverwater.org is a website designed for 8-13 year olds to explore all kinds of questions about water and its role in our lives. They will can do self directed study with Bridger, exploring the water cycle, watersheds, oceans, how

water keeps us healthy and much more. Students can work on their own and document their learning through their own science notebook or share with teachers or parents using the website tips for provided for each section. The site also provides suggestions for student action projects and the importance of personal responsibility for wise water use.



Sustaining the Blue Planet

Ever wonder about water issues and concerns in other parts of the world? Well, here's your chance to interact directly with

water educators from around the world and learn about their resource, their challenges and issues and how they integrate water science into their programs. The Sustaining the Blue Planet Global Water Education Conference will be held in beautiful Big Sky, Montana June 24-27. More information at www.projectwet.org/blueplanet.

Learn History of Discovery Hill with New 1.6-mile Podcast Trail

Discovery Hill is a popular area located approximately two miles north of Salmon, Idaho just off the River Bluffs Road. This area has become one of Salmon's best and newest venues for recreation, where users can hike, mountain bike, horseback ride, dirt bike, play Frisbee golf and even participate in a 1.6-mile Podcast Trail. This area is easily accessible most times of year, has activities for all skill levels and offers stunning views and a great place to enjoy the Salmon River bluffs.

The 1.6-mile *Podcast Trail* is a community driven trail project that was planned and built through a partnership with the BLM's Salmon



Salmon Valley Stewardship Executive Director Gina Knudson

Field Office, Salmon Valley Stewardship (SVS), the National Park Service, the Student Conservation Association and Salmon High School Students. Outdoor recreation planner Liz Townley initiated the project to not only get locals to appreciate their public lands more but to draw attention to what is a beautiful and historic area of town. Podcasts include unique facts about the area. BLM recruited the help of Salmon high school students to create the podcasts, many of whom wrote and edited them for production. The project was funded through a grant with the National Parks Service. SVS will continue to play a

role in the podcast trail, hosting community tours and having iPods available for rent at the local library and museum. The group also plans to update podcasts to target different age groups in the future.

blm.gov/id/st/en/visit_and_play/places_to_see/salmon_field_office/discovery_hill.html.

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act by Exploring Idaho's Wilderness Areas



Bruneau River: Bob Wick

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act, BLM-Idaho will highlight 50 adventures in the Owyhee Canyonlands Wilderness Areas throughout 2014. Each "Wilderness Wednesday" during this year of celebration the public will find a new post on BLM Idaho's Facebook page, suggesting a new idea for a wilderness adventure. All activities will also be featured on the BLM-Idaho website. Each wilderness adventure post will identify the wilderness area and include a picture, brief description, suggested experience level, location and approximate time to complete. Posts are scheduled to begin the fourth week of January. Members of the public are encouraged to share pictures and their experiences with BLM by using #IdahoWilderness50.

www.facebook.com/blmidaho

blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/wilderness/50th_anniversary_of.html

BLM-Idaho Celebrates Another Successful Eagle Watch Week at Lake Coeur d'Alene

For more than twenty years, the BLM, in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), has sponsored a week-long opportunity for the public to view and learn about bald eagles. While the public is able to spot eagles at any time on their own, Eagle Watch Week allows them to view eagles through high-powered scopes, learn more about their lifestyles and habitats and talk with eagle experts. The 2013 edition drew more spectators than ever as hundreds of eagles flocked to the Wolf Lodge Bay area of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Each winter from November through February a migrating population of bald eagles visits the Lake Coeur d'Alene area to feed on spawning kokanee salmon. The BLM began counting bald eagles around Wolf Lodge Bay in 1974. The number of eagles returning to this area varies from year to year. Check out the 2013 numbers we recorded and learn more about eagles and their habitat!



blm.gov/id/st/en/environmental_education/BLM-Idaho_nature/Mineral_Ridge-Wolf_Lodge_Bay.html



BLM Hosts Outdoor Teaching Classroom Gardens

The BLM has worked with the local community to construct teaching gardens that provide an outdoor learning space where teachers can conduct classes in an urban setting. These gardens are a venue for educating students on the unique plants, wildlife and geology of their area, as well as local Native American life and traditions and sage grouse habitat.

blm.gov/id/st/en/environmental_education/take_it_outside0/teaching_gardens.html



For more information on *Earthtracks*, contact:

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Project WILD

PO Box 25, Boise ID 83707

fishandgame.idaho.gov

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ladams@idfg.idaho.gov

U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Environmental Education

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise ID 83709

www.blm.gov/id/st/en/environmental_education.html

Krista Berumen, 208-373-3826

kberumen@blm.gov

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800-ID-WOODS www.idahoforests.org

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Layout provided by Kelly Kennedy Yokoyama, Idaho Fish and Game.

IWRRI—University of Idaho

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Thanks to the above, and these additional sponsors: Idaho Water Education Foundation, U.S. Forest Service, and Idaho Dept. of Lands.

Access *EarthTracks* at www.idahoforests.org/news.htm



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Project Learning Tree/IFPC

